

Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 1/14/09, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room
Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Sue Doctrow, John Lentz, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Mike Rademacher, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener

Non-members Present: Joseph Marshall, Roseann Casazza, Eric Aranow, David Loutzenheiser, Joe Connolly

1. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
2. Administration.

Meeting minutes of 12/10/08 approved unanimously.

Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed. Two new projects were added--Park Ave. at Paul Revere Road, and Mass. Ave. at Lowell Street. Mike will look at both.

New handi-capped parking requests to be looked at, as follows:

- o Davis Road--Elisabeth
- o Jason Street/Menotomy Rocks Park—John
- o Mountain Road/Greeley Playground/Stratton School—Jean
- o Teel Street--Scott

3. Bicycles and Schools. Scott introduced Eric Aranow, who described the proposal for a pilot program that will (a) provide bicycle safety education, and (b) allow students to ride to school if accompanied by an adult. Cyclists are being asked to walk bikes at intersections with Traffic Supervisors, and to walk and park bikes on school property. Goals are to reduce traffic, and teach healthy habits, including safe bicycling. The proposal is for a spring trial, summer mid-trial evaluation and then try again in the fall. It was discussed in 3 meetings with the Community Relations Subcommittee of the School Committee. Clarissa Rowe, Chair of the board of Selectmen, attended the December meeting and asked TAC to review and comment on the proposal. Scott noted that the Safe Routes to Schools program has a cycling component. Many of the school principals seem to be opposed to biking to school. Roseann Casazza, head of Traffic Supervisors, spoke in opposition to the proposal. She stated that many people don't know or follow rules of the road for bicycling. Many of the roads are narrow and congested. Ed stated that biking is an alternative to driving, and could reduce congestion. Corey noted that enforcement is difficult because special citations are necessary for bicycle laws. Jean felt that opposition to this proposal would send a negative message about riding bikes, and would not consider the health benefits. The committee voted to support the pilot program, 8 in favor with 1 abstention (Corey Rateau).
4. CVS. Laura summarized the approval process to date. CVS reps. have appeared before the ARB twice, with a 3rd hearing scheduled for Jan. 26. A site plan has not yet been approved. More traffic information will be addressed at the upcoming hearing, including pedestrian numbers and plan for improving pedestrian conditions. Jeff added that other areas to be looked at are the intersections of Mass. Ave. at Mill and Jason St., and Mass. Ave. at Bartlett St.
5. Winslow Towers. Nothing new to report.
6. Chestnut Street Crossing. Recommendation expected in Feb. or March.
7. Mass. Corridor Update. Laura reported on progress to date. A draft plan will be presented to the public for review and comment on February 3 at 7pm in the Town Hall

Auditorium. Corey reported that the Police and Fire Departments met with Planning and the engineering consultant. Police Dept. does not favor reducing number of lanes. Jeff suggested getting a traffic simulation. Planning for Phase 2 is also getting started.

8. Alewife Pedestrian/Bike Issues. David Loutzenheiser of MAPC described study of pedestrian and bicycle access to Alewife. Email comments to David within 2 weeks.
9. Thorndike Field Recommendations. Joe Connelly, Recreation Director, summarized process by which recommendations were reached. Goal is to improve traffic flow, not increase parking. Will need to obtain a Special Permit from ARB for parking in open space zone. Access from Margaret Street will be widened from 20' to 24'. A pedestrian path from Edith St. will be added, as well as signage directing people to alternative parking locations.
10. Downing Square. Elisabeth reported that the recent public meeting was productive and well attended. There is general agreement on a solution using curb extensions. The recommendation will be drafted for a vote at next meeting, to then go to the Selectmen.
11. Stratton School. Ed recommended installing a yield sign facing Ridge at Morningside. Voted unanimously. Also recommended yield sign on Yerxa on approach to Hemlock. Committee wants to look at it before voting.
12. Brackett School. Safe Routes Kickoff meeting being scheduled.
13. Town News. Mike reported that a designer has been hired for Forest Street.
14. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package: Agenda, 1/14/09; "Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups", dated 1/14/09; Memo from Marie Krepelka to Ed Starr and others, dated Nov. 17, 2008, regarding Handicapped parking; Letter from Leslie Mayer, Chair, Park and Recreation Commission to Board of Selectmen, dated October 14, 2008; Memo from Lieutenant Robert Lake, OIC Traffic Enforcement Unit, to Chief Frederick Ryan, regarding "Request for On Street Handicap Parking", dated October 30, 2008; Memo to Marie Krepelka from Deputy Chief Kevin Shaw, Fire Prevention, regarding Handicap Parking Spaces, Dated October 30, 2008; "Project Status", dated 1/14/09; "Many awaiting movement on Green Line extension", Boston.com, January 11, 2009; Memo from TAC to Board of Selectmen, "Measures to Further Reduce Congestion at Stratton and Dallin Schools", with photos, dated January 22, 2009;
 Minutes of 12/11/08
 "Thorndike Field Proposed Phase 2 Recommendations", TAC Meeting, January 14, 2009
 "Arlington Safe Bicycling to School—Pilot Proposal" Draft 12/16/08
 "Alewife Access Study", January, 2009